

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 9 are currently withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b).

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference numeral "20" not mentioned in the specification. As noted hereinabove, specification paragraph [0020] has been amended to correct this oversight.

The specification is objected to because on page 12, line 7, "30formed" should be --30 formed--. As noted hereinabove, paragraph 0050 has been amended to correct this oversight.

As should be apparent, the drawings and specification have been carefully reviewed and all known typographical and clerical errors corrected. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 10, 11, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanocki et al. (WO 97/48890).

Claim 10 has been amended to specify that the second (inner) surfaces of the insulators define inlet/outlet passages of the exhaust emission control device and that *an open woven mesh* overlays the second surface of the insulator associated with the inlet end. Furthermore, an annular core is affixed to the inner surface of each outer shell *adjacent the outboard end of the associated insulator and extending inwardly to circumferentially overlay and retain the outboard end of the mesh to the insulator second surface*. Lastly, *the substrate and retention material overlap and retain the inboard end of the mesh to the insulator second surface*.

Restated, one insulator forms at least a portion of the inlet passage of the exhaust emission control device. The hot gasses are in intimate contact with the insulator second surface. The mesh allows the hot gasses to flow there through and serves to "prevent

eroded insulator particles from breaking loose, passing into, and fouling cells in the substrate". Refer paragraph [0041]. The outboard end of the mesh is retained against the adjacent insulator by the inner core in combination with the associated outer shell.

Claim 15 has been similarly amended to recite ...*placing an open, woven mesh over the second surface; ... and ... placing a first one of said insulators and associated mesh at said inlet end such that its inboard end and adjacent mesh are supported by said substrate and retention material; ... and ... affixing an annular core to the housing inlet end and extending the core to overlay and retain the outboard end of the insulator and adjacent mesh;*

Thus amended, both independent claims are clearly distinguishable from Sanocki.

Rejected claims 11 and 16 depend, directly or indirectly, from an otherwise allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 10 – 12, 15, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shirk et al. (WO 98/50688).

The discussion above regarding amendments to claims 10 and 15 equally applies to Shirk et al..

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shirk et al. or Sanocki et al. in view of EP 413,998.

EP 413,998 is cited for the proposition that it describes an insulator having a screen or mesh forming a second surface thereof. However, as amended the claims specify that the mesh has in inboard end that is secured to the insulator by the substrate and retention material and an outboard end that is secured to the insulator by an annular core.

As amended, the claims are clearly distinguishable from EP 413,998 alone or in combination with Sanocki et al. and Shirk et al..

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanoki et al. in view of EP 413,998 or Shirk et al.

The discussion above concerning the amendments to independent claims 10 and 15 equally applies here.

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Appl. No. 10/000,207
Amdt. Dated 07-JUNE-2005
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2005

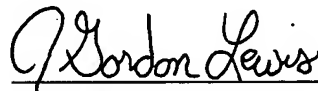
Conclusion

Applicant believes, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Gordon Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

J. GORDON LEWIS

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Dated: 07-JUNE-2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed sheets 4/8 to 8/8, inclusive, labeled "Replacement Sheets", for the corresponding sheets presently in the case. The applicant appreciated the Examiner's assistance in identifying the minor errors in the drawing figures.

In response to objection to the drawings:

Figure 5 is amended to add reference numerals 10 (exhaust emission control device) and 38 (outer surface) as well as their respective associated lead lines.

Figure 6 is amended to add reference numeral 10 (exhaust emission control device) as well as its associated lead line.

Figure 7 is amended to add reference numeral 10 (exhaust emission control device) as well as its associated lead line.

Figure 8 is amended to add reference numeral 10 (exhaust emission control device) as well as its associated lead line.

It is believed that the amendments to the drawings, together with the aforementioned amendments to the specification, address all objections raised in the Office Action. Therefore, it is requested that the objections be withdrawn in view of the amendments to the Figures and specification, and the remarks above.